

McLaurin Talks Straight On Political Situation

Politics As It Affects Cotton—McLaurin Says He is Supporting Blease Because Blease Stands For Rights of Producers.

Special to The Herald and News.

Columbia, July 14.—The following correspondence between Mr. W. D. Grist editor of the Yorkville Enquirer, and Senator Jno. L. McLaurin, who for the past few weeks has been in a sanitarium in Richmond in the interest of his health, has been made public by Mr. Grist, and will appear in his newspaper tomorrow morning: Yorkville, S. C., July 10, 1916.

Hon. John L. McLaurin,
Columbia, S. C.

My dear John L.:

I have your letter of Saturday, and feel like quarreling with you for not coming up as you promised. No wonder you are not feeling well. The hot stifling atmosphere of Columbia, especially in that old warehouse, is enough to make anybody feel blue. You should come up here and spend a few days in our fresh, pure air, where you could have good water to drink, plenty of tomatoes and other fine vegetables to eat, and where you can have the association of good honest farmers who believe in you and in what you are trying to do for them.

Then I had a selfish reason for wanting you to come. I wanted to talk to you about the campaign. The reports in the papers are very unsatisfactory as to detail, and the one subject in which I am most interested—the warehouse—is not receiving the attention to which its importance entitles it. If there is anybody in the state qualified to suggest the best thing to do under the circumstances, you are the man, and I wanted to talk it over with you. Won't you write me what you think, under the assurance that I will keep anything you might say to myself, unless you are willing for me to give it out to the public.

With best regards, I am very sincerely,
Your friend,
W.D.Grist.

Hygea Hospital,
Richmond, Va., July 14, 1916.

My Dear David:

Yours 9th to hand and was glad to hear from you. It is not surprising that so little is heard of the State Warehouse system. It does not suit the "Powers that Be" to discuss industrial questions in a campaign. They are more secure when the divisions are on factional lines, than when voters use the ballot to further their own interest. As I see it, the contest is between Manning and Blease. The others are not in it. Cooper sees this and has swung into line praising Manning, so as to take another shot at the gubernatorial plum two years from now.

I care nothing about factional politics except as it affects the principles which to some extent, are embodied in the state warehouse system.

In South Carolina we have two factions and will have them as long as there is but one party. What you call the Anti-faction in South Carolina represents money, and in the north are Republicans. The Reform faction are Democrats here and everywhere, because they are the producers and laborers.

On one side stands the social aristocracy and the money power; on the other the masses of the people, the toilers. Go to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and you find similar lines of division called Democrat and Republican. These leaders believe in no power save the dollar and respect no appeal save that of self-interest. Factionalism in South Carolina is the result of the efforts of the producers to maintain their industrial freedom against this power of wealth and position. Designing Reform leaders have taken advantage of the people and played upon their hopes and fears to attain high position and then the base instinct of the social climber make them forget the people who elected them. They teach the people politics to secure the election of men to high office and stop right there. Some say, we have too much politics. I say no, it is bad politics. In South Carolina, I can truthfully say, (including myself until the last ten years), that I have not known a man in office to whom political distinction was not the end, the sum total, instead of the means to the end. It is not the fact of being governor or senator; the honor lies in what we do with it, what you can accomplish, not for yourself, but others—this constitutes the glory of

public service. It is a noble ambition.

In the present campaign, I believe that it is to the interest of the farmers and producers to support Blease. I had intended to vote for Governor Manning, because I think up to the time that Cooper's candidacy became a fixed fact, Manning tried to lift himself above his environment, and be a man of the people. When he favored the warehouse system and signed the Laney-Odom act, the monied forces used Cooper as a club and beat Manning back into line, where his heart has been all the time. I was a fool to think for one minute that a man born and tied up with banks, insurance companies, etc., like Manning, could be for us at heart. He deceived himself. He was against the people in 1890, and he is the same way now. His friends know it, and the majority of the people feel, that they have a kid-gloved icicle in the governor's office. Their tone is one of apology, and the chief plea is, he "ought to have a second term because it is a precedent." I think the reelection of Governor Manning will inevitably strangle the state warehouse system, or certainly obstruct its development. He is certainly not my friend or the friend of the system. He has joined in the hue and cry, "Keep the system out of politics," which being translated means keep the people from understanding its possibilities. Governor Manning cannot get away from the influences that have surrounded his life, and his election means a complete surrender to the insurance trust and other malign corporate influences. I am sorry to believe this true, and not afraid to say so. How could he have any viewpoint except that of money? Who are his intimates and advisers? When elected he was at the head of a big bank, is now (so I understand) director of an insurance company and president of a standard warehouse. This warehouse underwrites local receipts at five cents a bale per month, while the local warehouse furnishes bond to indemnify this warehouse company and pay the high insurance rates outside of the system. This warehouse charged during the distressful times in 1914, 20 cents a bale the first month and 35 cents thereafter. I do not charge that the presidency of such a company in competition with the state would directly influence Governor Manning to fight the state system, but every man is unconsciously swayed by environment. In a public speech, he urged that the farmers in the country should not manage their own warehouses, a view which would certainly defeat one of the primary methods for the state system to serve the needs of the small farmer and at the same time save the state absolutely business. This is conclusively shown by the letter which I have on file from the governor of the Federal reserve bank, stating that this bank would recognize as eligible collateral the very receipt of the small farmer which Governor Manning was publicly condemning, and by his condemnation tending to create distrust in the financial mind.

The cotton crop is the basis of our prosperity, and it is the duty of the state government to place itself unequivocally behind it, and I do not see how we can ever expect this from a Manning administration.

I do not think we will have an ideal government under Blease, but I do regard him a real man of the people, a sincere friend of the state warehouse system, who can be absolutely depended upon, not as a negative, but as a positive factor to aid in its development.

I did not vote for Blease in 1912, but did in 1914, and will do so this year. I think he will be a better governor than before, as I am sure he sees the folly of allowing himself to be goaded by his enemies into imprudences. All in all, I am sure that the farmer and laborer have more to hope for from the election of Blease than Manning.

What credit has ever been given to Blease for the use of the veto power to prevent the increase in taxation? In 1905, the assessment was \$220,000. The revenue at a rate of 4 1-4 mills was \$1,155,000. In 1915, ten years later the assessment was \$310,907,101. Taxes amounting to \$2,176,350 were levied.

The appropriation bill for 1915 carried \$2,463,750.82. The levy was seven mills. In an effort to mislead the

people, the levy was fixed at 5 1-2 mills and then special levies bringing it up to 7 mills. So that in ten years there has been an increase of 50 per cent in taxable values, and an increase of 100 per cent in expenditures. Now, al experts in taxation agree that when taxes increase faster than wealth and population, an unbearable burden is laid on the people. It takes a governor willing to make use of the veto power to stem such a tide of extravagance.

I know that the masses will never get anything except by concentration on specific measures of reform. We have made cotton a fluid asset, and established the warehouse receipt as a basis of credit. The moment you give special privileges to a collateral, you valorize the commodity represented by the paper. If loans are made on cotton at ten cents a pound, and the paper is discounted widely at that price, then the banking world is interested in maintaining the market price above ten cents. In 1914, when war was declared, there was great alarm among bond and stock holders. The national government came to their relief with \$400,000,000. Why? Because these securities were the basis of banking. The cotton crop was sacrificed. Why? It had no status as a banking basis. Under similar conditions, the government would now protect warehouse receipts as they did bonds in 1914. That is what I called President Wilson's attention to last August, and it was the chief factor in the September advance from nine to twelve cents a pound. The last twelve months has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that cotton can be valorized by use as a collateral as readily as stocks and bonds. When it is so valorized then immediately

crop mortgages will have a better basis of credit, placing the snare cropper and renter upon a more independent plane.

The philosophy of the state warehouse system is that the hand which holds the plow should be the ruling economic power in this country. This is not so today; the power of money and the control of credits, enables middlemen to grade and price our products, so that drones devour the workers and parasites thrive on the toil of others. I want licensed graders, and not allow a bale of cotton to be sold except upon grades. I go further and say that every bale of cotton in the south should be sold from state warehouses. We should regulate production and establish a minimum price, as does the Steel trust and other great industrial organizations. It is a matter of educating the people up to it, and it will never be done except through the power of government.

The state warehouse idea has paved the way for rural credits. If the product of the land, cotton, can be converted into a fluid asset, then why not the land upon which the cotton is grown? Our tenant system is a curse. We will never develop into a great people except as home owners. Not one-fourth of the white men in South Carolina own the homes in which they live. The man who owns no land, can never love the soil understandingly, nor appreciate that soil improvement and soil cultivation should go hand in hand.

There are no more public lands open to homestead and the homeseeker is thrown back into the older states where land is high and unpopular as a collateral. I have not studied the rural credit bill recently passed by congress, but it shows the ne-

cessity of doing something. It is at least a beginning and should be supplemented by legislation in every state. In California, one estate consists of 14,500,000 acres, one-seventh of that large state owned by one man. Three men in Florida own nearly five million acres, and 180 men, many of them not citizens, own one-half of the state of Florida. There are two railroads with holdings of fifteen million acres, a free gift from the government, to hold out of use until the increase in population shall make the unearned increment of tremendous value. From 1890 to 1910, tenant farmers increased 16 2-3 per cent, while home owned farms increased less than one per cent.

In the same period, the mortgaged farms increased from 28 to 35 per cent, a prelude to further increase in tenantry.

The fight in this state, like it is everywhere, is between the masses and classes. It is to prevent all the wealth being gathered into the hands of the few. That is why, when you draw the line, I am against such men as Manning. He is with the people who believe in money rights instead of manhood rights.

James J. Hill died a few weeks ago, leaving a fortune estimated as high as \$500,000,000, nearly twice the assessed valuation of all the property in South Carolina. A very small part of this wealth was actually earned by Mr. Hill. At 25, he was a mere laborer on the railroad. About 90 per cent of this tremendous fortune was unearned increment arising from the increase in population.

When one man is permitted to pile up that kind of fortune, it means that thousands of other men are slaving for him. When the laws regulating finance admit in one lifetime of amassing such an excess of what one

man needs or can use, it is no wonder countless thousands are so miserably poor.

I do not believe that any man ever earned in his life, by his own labor, more than a million dollars, without taking something which in the sight of God belonged to some one else. That's why Carnegie said, "To die rich is to die disgraced." He ought to know. This is why millionaires are becoming multi-millionaires, and laboring men and farmers becoming dependent like the European peasant class.

Legislation conferring special privileges is the foundation of every great swollen fortune in this country. The whole scheme of government revolves around protection to certain classes and individuals.

What the classes want is a continuation of the present system where the wealth produced each year is gathered into the hands of the few. What the masses want is for each man to have an honest and just portion of the goods he produces.

Have you ever thought of it? Look at the great ships on the sea, the countless trains on the land, carrying the products of the farm that men may be clothed and fed. Look at the sky scrapers towering heavenward, the palatial private homes. All of these are the product of labor, applied to the soil, mines and factory, brought together for the use of others. The hand that produced owns no part. God made the earth, air, and water. He stored away coal, iron and timber for the equal benefit of all of his children who are willing to do honest work. Surely the division is unequal, and he is doing God's work who seeks a more equitable adjustment of the fruits of productive labor.

Your friend,
John L. McLaurin.

THE GREATEST MID-SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

Mid-Summer now upon us, we must clean out all present season fabrics. We are forcing prices lower and lower to make a clean sweep of all Summer Goods. This store is the logical bargain centre. Cash, the magnet that draws and the powerful crusher of high prices. EVERYBODY WANTS TO SAVE. COME!

Greatest Clear Out of the Season

100 waists in white or printed, batiste, fancy voile, madras, \$1.00 values at48c
200 middies, white or white trimmed, in colors, all sizes, to close out at45c
87 house dresses, gingham and percale, well made, fast colors, \$2.00 value at98c
75 boys' rompers, will wash, close out price25c & 45c
100 bungalow aprons to close out at25c, 39c & 48c
118 white wash skirts, gabardine and pique, \$1.50 value at only95c

Our Big Special Offerings

White lawn, 40 inches wide, 15c kind at yd.10c
White striped or check lawn, elegant value; at yd.10c
White linen suiting, double fold, special at10c
White voiles, 40 inches wide, soft finish, 25c value at only19c
36 inch white batiste, special values at10c up to 19c
Brown linen suiting, 36 inches, 15c values at10c
White curtain swiss, fancy dotted, 15c kind at10c
Fancy serim double fold, side border, at yd.10c
White marquisette, 36 inches, 25c value18c

Skirtings and Suitings

36 inch honeycomb skirting, 35c value at22½c
36 inch gabardine skirtings, special values at yd.19 & 25c
36 inch awning stripe suitings, 35c kind at25c

Special Domestic Department

Good apron checked ginghams, 7 1-2c kind at5c
Fine quality Sea Island, short lengths at, yard5c
36 inch pajama checks, heavy quality, 12 1-2c kind at9c
Ladies' fine quality Long Cloth, 12 1-2c kind at10c
Best 36 inch Cannon Cloth at, yard10c
12 1-2c yard-wide fine cambric at, yard10c
Ginghams, plain and fancy, 8 1-3c kind now5c
Fancy dress lawns, all fast colors, at5c
Fancy cambric prints, darks and lights, at5c

Silks and Dress Goods Sacrificed

36 inch messaline silk, all colors, \$1.25 value at98c
36 inch Taffeta silks in all best colors, \$1.50 values at \$1.18
50c silk shirtings, pretty patterns, at yard39c
36 inch silk serepe de chine at45c up to 98c
36 inch all-wool French serge, all colors, 75c value at50c
40 inch all-wool poplin, \$1.00 value at75c
Special cut prices made on all wool dress goods.

Printed Lawn, Batiste, Voiles

100 pieces all different designs; the season's choice colors in stripes, checks and fancy designs, good fast colors, 15c and 20c values now, yard10c

Shirts, Underwear, Hosiery, Etc.

50 dozen "Famous" dress shirts, 75c values, at50c
\$1.00 dress shirts, special at69c
\$1.25 dress shirts, "Lion" and "Columbia" brand, at98c
A big lot men's and boys' blue, tan and fancy work shirts at25c, 39c and 50c
A wagon load Men's and boys, indigo blue overalls at25c, 50c, and \$1.00
25 dozen ladies' gauze vests, 10c kind at5c
20 dozen ladies' "Cumfy Fit" gauze vests, 15c kind10c
Separate shirts and drawers for men and boys at, suit45c
Special prices made on all underwear.
Men's silk-boot hose, all colors at, pair15c, 25c and 50c
The best line of ladies' and children's hosiery in Newberry will be found here and guaranteed to wear and hold fast colors.

All Straw Hats Must Go

Come take your choice. Any reasonable offer will be accepted. We don't intend carrying over any straw hats.

Clothing Prices Shattered

Men, come in now and let us fit you with a "Kool Kloth" or Palm Beach suit. The coolest suits ever made for summer. The price will be no object. We have them from \$3.98 to \$7.98, worth twice the price.
For the man who wants a regular suit of clothes, we want to show you the line we are showing in Michael Stern & Co's.—perfect in fabric, pattern and color; perfect in cut and tailoring; priced \$10 to \$20.

Clearance Shoe Sale

200 pairs ladies' pumps, oxfords and strap slippers, worth \$2.00, cut to\$1.48
10 cases ladies' kid oxfords, patent leather pumps and "Mary Jand" pumps, worth \$3.00, cut to\$1.98
All \$3.75 and \$4.00 pumps and oxfords cut to\$3.25
White two-strap canvas pumps, \$1.50 value, at\$1.00
White canvas pumps worth \$2.00, cut to\$1.50
Children's white canvas pumps, 4 to 8, \$1.00 kind at49c
Misses' white canvas pumps, 8 1-2 to 2, \$1.25 value at 89c

COPELAND BROS.